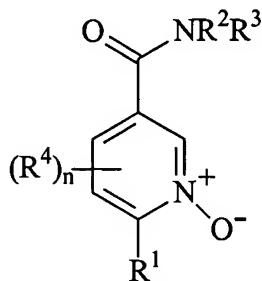


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure (I):



(I)

and optical isomers, diastereomers, enantiomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

R¹ is selected from halogen, ~~substituted or unsubstituted alkyl~~, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, , substituted or unsubstituted amino, hydroxy, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio or R⁵-SO₂-, where R⁵ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, , substituted or unsubstituted amino, or hydroxy;

R² is hydrogen;

R³ is substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl(alkylene);

R⁴ is selected from halogen, ~~substituted or unsubstituted alkyl~~, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, , substituted or unsubstituted amino, or hydroxy, wherein, when R⁴ is halogen, it is not para to the N-oxide group; and

n is 0 or 1.

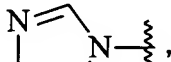
2. – 4. (Cancelled)

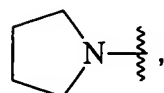
5. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ is R⁵-SO₂- and R⁵ is selected from alkyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, carbocycle, aryl(alkylene), and carbocycle(alkylene).

6. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 5 wherein, for R⁵, alkyl is C₁-C₁₀alkyl; heteroalkyl is C₁-C₁₀alkyl with 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; aryl is phenyl, substituted phenyl, naphthyl or substituted naphthyl; carbocycle is C₃-C₈carbocycle; and alkylene is C₁-C₁₀alkylene.

7. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 5 wherein R¹ is selected from (C₁-C₆alkyl)SO₂-, PhSO₂-, fluorinatedphenylSO₂-, PhCH₂SO₂-, cyclopentylSO₂-, *m*-carboxyphenylSO₂-, *m*-methylphenylSO₂-, and HOOC-(C₁-C₄alkylene)SO₂-.

8. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from halogen, amino, hydrocarbylamino, dihydrocarbylamino, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio-, (heteroalkyl)amino, and (heteroaryl)amino.

9. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 7 wherein R¹ is selected from amino, (C₁-C₆alkyl)(C₁-C₆alkyl)amino, PhNH-, PhCH₂NH-, ,

, and HOCH₂CH₂NH-.

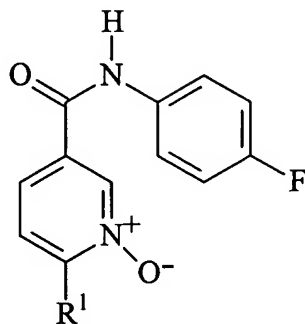
10. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 8 wherein R¹ is selected from halogen and (C₁-C₆alkyl)S-.

11. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 10 wherein R¹ is chloride.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R³ is aryl.

14. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 having the structure (II)



(II).

15. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 14 wherein R¹ is selected from (C₁-C₆alkyl)SO₂⁻, PhSO₂⁻, fluorinatedphenylSO₂⁻, PhCH₂SO₂⁻, cyclopentylSO₂⁻, *m*-carboxyphenylSO₂⁻, *m*-methylphenylSO₂⁻, and HOOC-(C₁-C₄alkylene)SO₂⁻.

16. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R³ is benzyl or phenyl, the benzyl or phenyl having 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from alkoxy, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl, alkylamido, alkylcarbonyl, amido, benzyl optionally substituted with halogen, benzyloxy, carboxy, cyano, dialkylamido, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, oxoalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, thioalkyl, thiocyanate, and thiohaloalkyl.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

19. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(2-hydroxyethylamino)-1-oxynicotinamide.

20. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-bromo-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

21. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 5,6-dichloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
22. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-ethanesulfonyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
23. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxy-6-(propane-2-sulfonyl) nicotinamide.
24. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-methanesulfonyl-1-oxynicotinamide.
25. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-benzenesulfonyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
26. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxy-6-phenylmethanesulfonylnicotinamide.
27. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
28. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(4-iodophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
29. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from halogen, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio, R⁵SO₂ or substituted or unsubstituted amino, R² is H, R³ is aryl and n is 0.
30. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or excipient.
- 31.-44. (Cancelled)